

NEW COMBINATIONS IN HOUSTONIA (RUBIACEAE)

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Two United States species presently under Hedyotis are here transferred to Houstonia. Some of the evidence for separation of Hedyotis, Houstonia, and Oldenlandia is presented in the paper immediately preceding this one.

HOUSTONIA CORRELLII (W. H. Lewis) E. E. Terrell, comb. nov.
Hedyotis correllii W. H. Lewis, Brittonia 24: 395. 1972.

This species was described from sandy soil among mesquite, 5.5 mi. northeast of San Ygnacio on road to Aquilares, Zapata County, Texas, 16 March 1966, D. S. Correll 32250 (holotype MO; isotype LL). This locality is in the Rio Grande Plains south of Laredo, Texas, and apparently the species has not yet been collected elsewhere. The closest relative of Houstonia correllii is H. humifusa (A. Gray) A. Gray (Hedyotis humifusa A. Gray), as noted by Lewis and as I concluded independently (cf. Lewis 1972, p. 397) in 1970 after examining a sheet of the collection on loan to the U.S. National Herbarium. Houstonia correllii and H. humifusa are among several species in northern Mexico and southwestern United States belonging to the H. rubra Cav. species-group.

HOUSTONIA MICRANTHA (Shinners) E. E. Terrell, comb. nov.
(non Houstonia australis I. M. Johnston (1922).
Hedyotis crassifolia Raf. var. micrantha Shinners, Field and Lab 18: 100. 1950.
Hedyotis australis W. H. Lewis and D. M. Moore, Southwest. Nat. 3: 208. 1959. (non Hedyotis micrantha Hochst. ex Hiern (1877).

This taxon was described by Shinners as a variety of Hedyotis crassifolia Raf. (Houstonia pusilla Schoepf) and was raised to species rank by Lewis and Moore. Lingering doubts whether it is a good species are mostly dispelled by the comments of Lewis and Moore and by Chambers (1963) that
(1) Houstonia pusilla is diploid, H. micrantha tetraploid,
(2) there are five character differences to separate them,
(3) breeding patterns maintain them as separate populations.

According to Lewis (1968) this species is known from Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma.

References

Chambers, K. L. 1963. Hedyotis australis in Georgia. Rhod. 65: 271-273.

Lewis, W. L. 1968. Notes on Hedyotis (Rubiaceae) in North America. Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 55: 31-33.

_____. 1972. Hedyotis correllii (Rubiaceae): a new Texas species. Brittonia 24: 395-397.